

BY: Senator ASHBY

CONGRATULATING Tara Rossbach and Colin Vogel upon the occasion of winning first place in the Air Trajectory event at the 2025 New York Science Olympiad State Tournament for Division B

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend and pay tribute to those who, by achieving outstanding success in their educational and scientific endeavors, have inspired and brought pride to our great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, It is also the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the dedication and commitment of our young people who distinguish themselves through excellence in science competition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Tara Rossbach and Colin Vogel of the Howard L. Goff Middle School Science Olympiad Team upon the occasion of winning first place in the Air Trajectory event at the 2025 New York Science Olympiad State Tournament on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at East Syracuse-Minoa High School in Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Air Trajectory event requires the team to design, construct, and calibrate a single device capable of launching projectiles onto a target and collect data regarding device parameters and performance; over the course of six months, Tara Rossbach and Colin Vogel made many changes to improve the device's accuracy, always referencing the rules for qualification; and

WHEREAS, Earlier this year, 450 teams from around the state competed in regional competitions with only the top 40 advancing to the state level; having placed within the top 40, the Howard L. Goff Science Olympiad Team traveled to Syracuse where Tara Rossbach and Colin Vogel competed in the Air Trajectory event; and

WHEREAS, Since Tara Rossbach and Colin Vogel's first shot launched and landed approximately 17 cm away from the target, they were able to ask for a bucket shot; their first bucket shot proved to be short, but with some expert readjustments, they were able to score 500 points with a successful buzzer-winning bucket shot; and

WHEREAS, The Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of kindergarten-12 science education, increasing male, female, and minority interest in science, creating a technologically-literate workforce, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers; these goals are achieved by participating in Science Olympiad tournaments and non-competitive events, incorporating Science Olympiad into classroom curriculum, and attending teacher training institutes; and

WHEREAS, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) is becoming an exceedingly popular and driving field in New York State's economy and Science Olympiad programs are influential in preparing students to be leaders in STEM and at the forefront of emerging science and technology; and

WHEREAS, The Howard L. Goff Science Olympiad Team is led by the dedicated coaching of advisers Donnamarie Vlieg and Zachary Hutson, whose inspiration and knowledge empowers their students to strive for success; the lessons learned from these trusted advisers will prove invaluable both on and off the competition floor by nurturing critical thinking and a spirit of life-long learning; and

WHEREAS, Tara Rossbach and Colin Vogel were also mentored by Ryan Ecker, a current Science Olympiad student at Columbia High School who lends both his experience and encouragement, and Jeff Hicks, an alumnus who tirelessly coached them to success with expertise building, strategic launch techniques, and reminders to end the evenings with some fun air trajectories; and

WHEREAS, The success and accomplishments of Tara Rossbach and Colin Vogel are not just a testament to their exceptional skills and abilities, but also a strong indicator of their potential for continued greatness in the future, and evidence of the outstanding support that East Greenbush Central School District has provided them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Tara Rossbach and Colin Vogel upon the occasion of winning first place in the Air Trajectory event at the 2025 New York Science Olympiad State Tournament for Division B; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Tara Rossbach and Colin Vogel; advisers Donnamarie Vlieg and Zach Hutson; and mentors Jeff Hicks and Ryan Ecker.